



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-6813
4 August 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Seoul Bureau -- July 1986

I. GENERAL

Turmoil continues to highlight the South Korean domestic political scene, as ruling and opposition camps jockey for the high ground in anticipation of National Assembly meetings on revision of the ROK Constitution. Much of the rhetoric in July centered on a young woman's charge that she was raped by a police officer after being arrested in June on charges of obtaining factory employment under false credentials. Prosecutors have denied the rape charge, though they acknowledged that the woman, identified as a Miss Kwon, was "physically abused," and the police official involved has been dismissed. The government report claims the woman is "morally decadent" and implies that she got what she deserved. This has led to a series of charges and countercharges by the ruling DJP and opposition NKDP, attempted downtown rallies in support of Miss Kwon which have been blocked by the police with intensive use of teargas, and exceptionally full treatment of the case in the Seoul press. Reporting of the main elements of the incident has been voluminous and often critical of the government. The Bureau has filed a considerable amount of reportage and comment on the case, which Embassy officers expect to remain on local front pages throughout August. Late in July the State Department issued a statement describing Miss Kwon's charges as credible and terming such treatment of prisoners "deplorable and appalling." This promptly led to a Foreign Ministry protest which strongly suggests that the U.S. should stay out of sensitive ROK political developments. Embassy officers believe that The Miss Kwon case will take a back seat to other developments as summer wanes and the country points toward the Asian Games in late September, but that university students probably will use it in their continuing opposition to government policies.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

For the first three weeks of July the Korean Unit workload was even heavier and more hectic than in June, a record month. Back-to-back visits by Soviet and PRC delegations to the Pyongyang festivities marking friendship

treaties with both countries accounted for much of the load. The visits generated an inundation of material, and processing was complicated by difficulty in texting several of the long speeches. Chief, Operations Group approved overtime to help clear the backlog and to process additional items requested by AG. During the last week of the month the output from Pyongyang radio shrank to a more manageable level, but despite the welcome end-of-month respite Korean translated wordage during July totaled 315,000, higher than June and nearly half the entire Bureau output.

B. Pyongyang Television

1. On 30 July Chief Technician [] and Associate Editor [] went to Panmunjom to install new television monitoring equipment procured by Okinawa Bureau and to review recording procedures with Joint Duty Officers. The new equipment allows recording of Pyongyang TV on slow speed, making it possible to record an entire five-hour evening transmission on only one tape. This simplifies the recording procedure for the duty officers. [] used the occasion to cruise for DPRK television transmissions beamed to the ROK, and were able to identify a test pattern and the word "Kaesong" on Channel 8 on the NTSC system used in the ROK (the DPRK uses the PAL system for its domestic transmissions). Kaesong is a town in North Korea near the DMZ. Reception of this signal was extremely poor.

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2. The increased volume of material from Pyongyang television under our new monitoring arrangements has forced the Bureau to revise its procedures for handling the recordings. Associate Editor [] is now coordinating television processing, and in this role he handles initial screening of most of the footage. All substantive processing is done by the Bureau's monitorial staff, but [] ability to cull out useless material saves considerable time for the monitors. So far this arrangement is working well, and assures prompt handling of videotapes without removing Korean monitors from other responsibilities for long periods.

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III. ADMINISTRATION

Personnel

For over a month the Bureau has conducted a recruiting campaign for Japanese/Korean monitors on behalf of Okinawa Bureau. We advertised for two days early in July in both Seoul English-language dailies. Over 100 applicants responded, and 10 were selected for interviews and testing in Japanese. The list now has been reduced to five, who will be recalled for further interviews and a Korean translation test. Though many Japanese speakers in Korea learned the language as children before the end of World War II and don't use it often, we have been pleasantly surprised at the proficiency displayed by the best of the applicants. It appears that we will be able to identify a few viable candidates, and Okinawa Bureau management will make the final decision on employment.

IV. VISITS

AG Korean analyst [] was in Seoul from 5-9 July, as part of an orientation tour of the Far East.

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V. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Embassy, represented by an aging mixture of the halt and the lame including the Bureau Chief, participated in the Seoul area 52-team military softball league. After a 26-game regular season, 24 teams made the post-season playoffs, including to everyone's surprise the Embassy. For the first three games of the playoffs the Embassy kept reality at bay, defeating excellent Army teams made up of a seemingly endless number of fast, agile 20-year-olds. Following one particularly satisfying victory an Air Force major remarked to the Bureau Chief, "Gee, I thought we had an old team." Unfortunately, experience and guile were not quite enough, and the Embassy finished fifth in the playoffs. Charges by some teams that the Embassy succeeded by making fraudulent claims of diplomatic immunity at opportune times have been officially denied. The Bureau Chief is now treating some missing skin, and waiting until next year. Have glove, will travel.

[]

Chief, Seoul Bureau

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Attachment
Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

Seoul Bureau Production Report for July 1986

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	690690
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	173840
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1519

	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	13265.00	5510.00	100.46
(minutes or issues per week)	min.	min.	issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA

Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	6330	
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	700	
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	12150	
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in Mandarin	13580	
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	8200	
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	13400	
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	2810	
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	4800	
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	300	
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese		14380
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese		0
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese		13350
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese		2330
Shenyang DONGBEI JINGJI BAO in Chinese		0
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese		8470
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese		7730

BROAD-
CASTSPRESS
AGENCIESPUBLI-
CATIONS

Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese		7160
CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	29720	
KOREA (NORTH) Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	255370	
Pyongyang Television Service in Korean	0	
Pyongyang KCNA in English		176280
Pyongyang Editorial Report on DPRK Korean		600
Pyongyang KULLQJA in Korean		16350
Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean		0
KOREA (SOUTH) Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	1300	
Seoul YONHAP in English		20750
Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean		0
Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean		0
Seoul Editorial Report on ROK Media Korean		700
Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean		500
Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean		100
Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean		800
Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean		0
Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English		28950
Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English		38980
Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean		2650
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS Moscow International Service in Korean	1950	